

**Minutes of the Public Works Committee
January 14, 2010**

Chair David Swan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: County Board Supervisors David Swan (Chair), Pamela Meyer, Walter Kolb, Pauline Jaske, and Peter Gundrum. **Absent:** Supervisors Peter Wolff and John Pledl.

Also Present: County Board Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Legislative Associate Karen Phillips, Public Works Director Allison Bussler, Business Manager Betsy Crosswaite, Highway Operations Manager Pete Chladil, Parks Manager Duane Grimm, Architectural Engineering Technician Mike Wells, Budget Management Specialist Linda Witkowski, County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer, Tim Lynch of RSV Engineering, Inc., Bryan Fischer of BCF Construction.

Approve Minutes of December 3, 2009

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Gundrum, to approve the minutes of December 3, 2009, as amended. Motion carried: 5-0.

Correspondence

- Letter to James Dwyer from the State Division of Transportation Investment Management RE: Final Calculation for Calendar Year 2010 General Transportation Aids

Future Meeting Date

- January 28, 2010

Future Agenda Items

- Tour of the completed Medical Examiner Expansion
- Update on the HHS Building Project
- Discussion of safety concerns regarding the intersections at Kossow Road by Menard's and Target (Jaske)
- Update on intersection projects (Gundrum)
- Fleet Update / Vehicle Report (Jaske)

Approval of Bid: Waukesha County Capital Project #200913 - Highway Operations Center Water Main Loop

Wells was present to discuss the bid for this project. The Waukesha Water Utility has requested that two existing dead-end water mains at the Highway Operations Center and one dead-end main at the Northview Building connect into a looped system, in accordance with the DNR codes. Six contractors submitted bids for this project, all of which were under budget.

Lynch discussed details of the project. He recommended award of the contract to Reeseman's Excavating and Grading, Inc., for the base bid and alternate A, which includes boring under existing trees to install the water main. Although cutting down the existing mature oak trees would be less costly, using a directional drilling/boring method would cause much less disturbance to the root systems than digging a trench, and would save 5-6 mature oak trees. In essence, the cost to save the trees is about \$19,500.00. Gundrum and Kolb expressed concerns with this additional cost option, especially in the current state of the economy.

Swan questioned whether the path of the water main could be changed to avoid the trees entirely. Possible alternate scenarios were suggested and discussed at length. During discussion, it was

revealed that in error, RSV Engineering had initially determined that no trees would be in the way of the water main path. (Discussion continued after Public Comment.)

Public Comment

Fischer, owner of BCF Construction, was present to discuss the details of his bid and give his perspective of the project. BCF had submitted the lowest base bid amount and not awarded the contract.

Approval of Bid: Waukesha County Capital Project #200913 - Highway Operations Center Water Main Loop (Continued)

Mader clarified the options the Committee has to consider with regard to this bid: accept the recommendations as presented by Public Works staff; accept the low base bid only; or reject the bids and start the entire process over again.

Grimm said that the Parks Division is doing work in the area of this proposed project, removing buckthorn and honeysuckle, in order to open up the area. Meyer said that oak openings such as this have great value to the environment and are rare in Wisconsin. Areas such as this one need to be preserved. Jaske maintained that it is worth the investment to save the trees.

Dwyer reminded that the available funding for this project is \$186,500, and all of the bids came in well under budget. The current bidding climate is favorable for the County. Bussler added consideration was given to past feedback from the County Board, in that saving trees was important, and that point was considered in this decision.

MOTION: Jaske moved second by Meyer, to approve the bid by Reeseman's Excavating and Grading, Inc., in the amount of \$92,315 for the base bid and \$15,000 for Alternate 1, for a total of \$107,315. Motion carried: 3-2 (Gundrum, Kolb).

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 164-O-071: Appropriate Funds To The Department Of Public Works, Transportation Fund 2010 Budget

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Gundrum, to approve Ordinance 164-O-071.

Bussler discussed this ordinance, which appropriates \$100,000 of WisDOT funding to purchase and install Automatic Vehicle Location – Global Positioning Systems (AVL-GPS) equipment, sensors, and data communication services onto County patrol trucks used for State highway maintenance operations. Phillips distributed informational brochures on the product.

The pilot project will enable WisDOT and County Highway Operations staff to identify labor and material efficiencies through the data collected by the installed equipment. This pilot program will be funded until June 2011; afterwards, the County will own the equipment. There is a \$40 per truck fee per month, which the State will pay now, but potentially could be a cost to the County if it was decided to continue using the equipment. The County will be responsible for any costs related to removing the equipment from County vehicles after the pilot project ends.

Mader requested a few statements be made about the cost benefits of this pilot project. Bussler explained that more efficient use of resources would outweigh the costs of ongoing operation. The software would send real-time information, such as pavement temperature. Treatment recommendations can be made and modified as a storm progresses, resulting in a more efficient use of salt. Staff would be able to know the location of all trucks at all times, making it a quality assurance

tool. It could also be used as employee management and customer service tools. Jaske inquired how long the GPS units are expected to last. Chladil anticipates it would be longer than the life-cycle of the trucks, which is presently eight years.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 164-O-072: Amend Capital Project 200827 State Salt Shed Project To Increase Expenditures And Revenues

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Meyer, to approve Ordinance 164-O-072.

Bussler discussed this ordinance, which proposes an increase of \$50,000 in expenditure authority and WisDOT revenue funding by a corresponding \$50,000 for this project. Additional site costs were identified during the design phase of the project and are included in the final funding agreement.

Meyer noted an error in the Capital Budget Summary – the dollar amount listed in “REVENUE BUDGET” (page 2) should be changed from \$500,000 to \$550,000.

Motion carried: 5-0.

Update on the State Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA)

Bussler discussed the \$500,000 cut in the State RMA for Waukesha County. To compensate for the significant revenue change, reductions in services will be made, mostly in non-winter months. Though reduced revenues were anticipated while planning the 2010 budget, there is still a \$275,000 shortfall in the Public Works budget. Bussler stated that various measures are being taken to try to fill the gap. Two vacant positions are temporarily being left unfilled. Ultimately, some layoffs may be necessary.

2010 Wisconsin County Highway Association (WCHA) Winter Conference Update

Bussler and Chladil gave a brief update on the WCHA Winter Conference that they attended. Presentation subjects included transportation funding, roadway construction, and new prevailing wage law changes. WCHA’s 100th anniversary celebration is scheduled for next year (2011).

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Meyer, to adjourn at 10:24 a.m. Motion carried: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Wolff
Secretary